

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Marcin Korolec, Minister of Environment, Poland
2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit**

(March 26-27, Seoul)

Let me first thank President Lee Myung-bak for perfect organization of the Summit and President Barack Obama for launching this important process.

National commitments and progress

Enhancing nuclear security diminishes the risk associated with nuclear terrorism. Poland fully subscribes to the objectives of the Nuclear Security Summit and is committed to the goal of securing vulnerable nuclear materials.

Since September 2009 Poland has removed spent nuclear fuel (SNF) from the “MARIA” research reactor to Russia under the Global Threat Reduction Initiative Research Reactors Fuel Return Program. The spent fuel contained over 350 kg of highly enriched uranium (HEU) and 11 kg of plutonium. As a national commitment at the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, Poland pledges to continue the program of HEU spent nuclear fuel (SNF) removal with an aim of eliminating it from Polish territory by 2016 at latest.

Simultaneously Poland is conducting an HEU use minimalization program under which the “MARIA” research reactor conversion is being carried out. If all necessary technical conditions will be met Poland commits itself to conclude the reactor core conversion process until 2014.

Growing energy consumption and the need to limit green house gases emissions have led to the decision to develop Poland’s Nuclear Energy Program. This will be the primary objective for the years ahead. Poland pledges itself to ensure that the highest nuclear security standards are in place for the development of Polish peaceful Nuclear Power Program.

International co-operation

International co-operation is indispensable for enhancing nuclear security standards and reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism on a global scale. To this end, as a deliverable for the 2010 Washington Nuclear Security Summit, Poland ratified in April 2010 the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

To support the international efforts to combat nuclear smuggling in February 2012, in the run up to the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit Polish Government hosted the Nuclear Security Summit Law Enforcement Counter Nuclear Smuggling Conference. Main goal of the conference, organized jointly by the INTERPOL and Poland, was to exchange good practices in enhancing international cooperation among states participating in the NSS with the focus on preventing and responding to nuclear and radiological threats.